Uneconomical Branches of Railways

3016. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of uneconomical branch lines in the country;

(b) what is the total loss incurred due to these uneconomical branch lines;

(c) whether Government propose to close down or dismantle some of these lines, if so, what are these lines; and

(d) what steps Government propose to solve this problem?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) As many as 138 branch lines were found uneconomic during 1986-87.

(b) The loss suffered on these branch lines during 1986-87 was about Rs. 81 crores.

(c) Out of these 138 branch lines, following have been closed:—

(i) Nidamangalam-Mannargudi

(ii) Sahebpur-Kamal-Monghyrghat

(iii) Kunkavav-Derdi

(iv) Hadmatiya-Jodiya

(v) Khambaliya-Salaya

(vi) Than-Chotila

(vii) Ningala-Gadhadha-Swaminarayan.

(d) Various steps like replacement of passenger trains by Mixed trains, introduction of 'One Engine Only' system, economy in staff, curbing ticketless travel, closure of unremunerative stations/halts or converting them into contractor operated halts, etc. have been taken to reduce the losses.

Display of Photograph of Private Bus Drivers under Delhi Transport Corporation

3017. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instructions have been issued to the private buses operating under DTC to display the photograph of authorised drivers, phone numbers of complaint cell and bus number inside the bus;

(b) if so, how many such buses on route numbers 623, 640 and 660 have complied with those instructions;

(c) whether any special programme is proposed to be launched to infuse discipline in the DTC;

(d) whether the antecedents of the DTC staff are verified at the time of recruitment; and

(e) what steps are being taken to ensure recruitment of decent and civilised crew in the DTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 6 private owned buses on route No. 623, 2 private buses on route No. 640 and 4 private buses on route No. 660 operating under DTC. According to information furnished by D.T.C., all of them are complying with these instructions.

(c) Special checking squads in addition to motor cycle squads keep a continuous watch on all aspects of operations, including display of photograph of the driver of the P.O. bus. The defaulters are suitably punished.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Besides verification of antecedents through police authorities, it has been decided to recruit the crew from different States/UTs of the country with a view to broad base recruitment of drivers and conductors in DTC. The DTC have also initiated